

WE CLAIM:

1. A reservoir for containing and dispensing water, the reservoir comprising:
a housing defining a chamber therein;
5 a water heater associated with the housing for heating the water in the chamber;
at least one inlet port communicating with the chamber for introducing water into the chamber;
at least one outlet port communicating with the chamber for dispensing water
10 from the chamber;
at least one baffle structure positioned inside the chamber proximate to at least one outlet port;
the at least one baffle structure having a wall at least partially defining a cavity, the cavity communicating with the chamber and the outlet port, an upper edge
15 of the wall defining a mouth through which water is received from the chamber into the cavity for dispensing through the outlet port.
2. The reservoir of claim 1 further comprising the wall and an internal surface of the housing defining the cavity therebetween.
3. The reservoir of claim 1 further comprising the wall of the baffle defining a
20 generally tubular structure communicating with the chamber and with at least one outlet port.
4. The reservoir of claim 3 further comprising the wall of the baffle defining a generally tubular structure communicating with the chamber and with one corresponding outlet port.
- 25 5. The reservoir of claim 1 further comprising at least one inlet port being positioned in a lower portion of the reservoir.
6. The reservoir of claim 1 further comprising at least one inlet port being positioned in an upper portion of the reservoir.
7. The reservoir of claim 1 the water heater further comprising a heating
30 element at least partially retained in the chamber for heating water disposed therein.
8. The reservoir of claim 7 further comprising the heating element being positioned in a lower portion of the chamber.

9. The reservoir of claim 1 further comprising a dispensing faucet communicating with the outlet port.

10. The reservoir of claim 1 in combination with a beverage preparation apparatus for dispensing water from the reservoir through the outlet port to a tube for controllably dispensing through the tube to the beverage preparation apparatus.

11. The reservoir of claim 9 further comprising the beverage preparation apparatus defining a beverage brewing apparatus including a beverage brewing funnel for retaining beverage brewing substance, whereby water dispensed from the reservoir is delivered to the beverage brewing funnel for combination with the beverage brewing substance retained therein for producing a brewed beverage.

12. In a beverage preparation apparatus using heated water for producing a beverage reservoir, a reservoir for containing and dispensing heated water comprising:

a housing defining a chamber therein;

15 a water heater associated with the housing for heating the water in the chamber;

at least one inlet port communicating with the chamber for introducing water into the chamber;

at least one outlet port communicating with the chamber for dispensing water

20 from the chamber;

at least one baffle structure positioned inside the chamber proximate to at least one outlet port;

the at least one baffle structure having a wall at least partially defining a cavity, the cavity communicating with the chamber and the outlet port, an upper edge

25 of the wall defining a mouth through which water is received from the chamber into the cavity for dispensing through the outlet port.

13. The beverage preparation apparatus using heated water for producing a beverage reservoir as in claim 12, further comprising:

a tube extending from the outlet port;

30 a receiver for receiving heated water from the tube and for receiving a beverage substance for mixing with the heated water for producing a beverage therefrom.

14. The beverage preparation apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

the receiver being a brewing funnel for receiving a quantity of beverage brewing substance therein, the tube delivering heated water for infusing the beverage brewing substance for producing a brewed beverage.

15. The beverage preparation apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

5 the receiver being a mixing chamber for receiving a quantity of beverage brewing substance therein,

 a beverage substance dispenser for dispensing a beverage substance to the mixing chamber for mixing the beverage substance with heated water in the mixing chamber for producing a beverage.

10 16. The beverage preparation apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
 an inlet control device communicating with the inlet line for controlling the introduction of water to the reservoir.

17. The beverage preparation apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
 a controller;

15 the inlet control device being a controllable valve coupled to the inlet line and coupled with the controller for controllably operating the inlet control valve to controllably introduce water to the reservoir.

18. The beverage preparation apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
 an outlet control device communicating with the outlet line for controlling the
20 dispensing of water to the reservoir.

19. The beverage preparation apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
 a controller;

 the outlet control device being a controllable valve coupled to the outlet line and coupled with the controller for controllably operating the outlet control valve to
25 controllably dispense water from the reservoir.

20. A beverage preparation apparatus using heated water for producing a beverage, the beverage preparation apparatus comprising:

 a reservoir for receiving, containing and heating water;

 a housing of said reservoir defining a chamber therein;

30 a controller for controlling operation of the beverage preparation apparatus;

 a water heater associated with the housing for heating the water in the chamber, the water heater being coupled to the controller;

at least one inlet port communicating with the chamber for introducing water into the chamber;

an inlet control device communicating with the inlet line and coupled to the controller for controlling the introduction of water to the reservoir;

5 at least one outlet port communicating with the chamber for dispensing water from the chamber;

an outlet control device communicating with the inlet line and coupled to the controller for controlling the dispensing of water from the reservoir;

a tube extending from the outlet port;

10 a receiver for receiving heated water from the tube and for receiving a beverage substance for mixing with the heated water for producing a beverage therefrom;

at least one baffle structure positioned inside the chamber proximate to at least one outlet port;

15 the at least one baffle structure having a wall at least partially defining a cavity, the cavity communicating with the chamber and the outlet port, an upper edge of the wall defining a mouth through which water is received from the chamber into the cavity for dispensing through the outlet port.

21. The beverage preparation apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

20 the receiver being a brewing funnel for receiving a quantity of beverage brewing substance therein, the tube delivering heated water for infusing the beverage brewing substance for producing a brewed beverage.

22. The beverage preparation apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

25 the receiver being a mixing chamber for receiving a quantity of beverage brewing substance therein,

a beverage substance dispenser for dispensing a beverage substance to the mixing chamber for mixing the beverage substance with heated water in the mixing chamber for producing a beverage.

23. The beverage preparation apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

30 the inlet control device being a controllable valve coupled to the inlet line and coupled with the controller for controllably operating the inlet control valve to controllably introduce water to the reservoir.

24. The beverage preparation apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

the outlet control device being a controllable valve coupled to the outlet line and coupled with the controller for controllably operating the outlet control valve to controllably dispense water from the reservoir.

5 25. The reservoir of claim 20 further comprising the wall and an internal surface of the housing defining the cavity therebetween.

26. The reservoir of claim 20 further comprising the wall of the baffle defining a generally tubular structure communicating with the chamber and with at least one outlet port.

10 27. The reservoir of claim 26 further comprising the wall of the baffle defining a generally tubular structure communicating with the chamber and with one corresponding outlet port.

28. The reservoir of claim 20 further comprising at least one inlet port being positioned in a lower portion of the reservoir.

15 29. The reservoir of claim 20 further comprising at least one inlet port being positioned in an upper portion of the reservoir.

30. The reservoir of claim 20 the heating means further comprising a heating element retained in the reservoir for heating water disposed therein.

31. The reservoir of claim 30 further comprising the heating element being positioned in a lower portion of the reservoir.

20 32. The reservoir of claim 20 further comprising a dispensing faucet communicating with the outlet port.

33. A heated water dispensing apparatus comprising:
a reservoir for receiving, containing and heating water;
a housing of said reservoir defining a chamber therein;
25 a controller for controlling operation of the heated water dispensing apparatus;
a water heater associated with the housing for heating the water in the chamber, the water heater being coupled to the controller;

at least one inlet port communicating with the chamber for introducing water into the chamber;

30 an inlet control device communicating with the inlet line and coupled to the controller for controlling the introduction of water to the reservoir;

at least one outlet port communicating with the chamber for dispensing water from the chamber;

an outlet control device communicating with the inlet line and coupled to the controller for controlling the dispensing of water from the reservoir;

a controllable dispensing faucet communicating with the outlet port for controllably dispensing heated water from the apparatus;

5 at least one baffle structure positioned inside the chamber proximate to at least one outlet port;

the at least one baffle structure having a wall at least partially defining a cavity, the cavity communicating with the chamber and the outlet port, an upper edge of the wall defining a mouth through which water is received from the chamber into
10 the cavity for dispensing through the outlet port.

34. The beverage preparation apparatus of claim 33, further comprising:
the inlet control device being a controllable valve coupled to the inlet line and coupled with the controller for controllably operating the inlet control valve to controllably introduce water to the reservoir.

15 35. The beverage preparation apparatus of claim 33, further comprising:
the outlet control device being a controllable valve coupled to the outlet line and coupled with the controller for controllably operating the outlet control valve to controllably dispense water from the reservoir.

20 36. The reservoir of claim 33 further comprising the wall and an internal surface of the housing defining the cavity therebetween.

37. The reservoir of claim 33 further comprising the wall of the baffle defining a generally tubular structure communicating with the chamber and with at least one outlet port.

25 38. The reservoir of claim 33 further comprising the wall of the baffle defining a generally tubular structure communicating with the chamber and with one corresponding outlet port.

39. The reservoir of claim 33 further comprising at least one inlet port being positioned in a lower portion of the reservoir.

30 40. The reservoir of claim 33 further comprising at least one inlet port being positioned in an upper portion of the reservoir.

41. The reservoir of claim 33 the heating means further comprising a heating element retained in the reservoir for heating water disposed therein.

42. The reservoir of claim 33 further comprising the heating element being positioned in a lower portion of the reservoir.

43. A method of producing and dispensing heated water for use in preparing a beverage, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 providing a reservoir for containing and dispensing water;
- providing a housing of the reservoir defining a chamber therein;
- providing a water heater;
- locating the water heater in association with the housing for heating the water in the chamber;
- 10 providing at least one inlet port communicating with the chamber for introducing water to the chamber;
- introducing water into the chamber for heating;
- providing at least one outlet port communicating with the chamber for dispensing water from the chamber;
- 15 providing at least one baffle structure positioned inside the chamber proximate to at least one outlet port;
- providing an outlet control device communicating with the outlet line for controlling the dispensing of water from the reservoir;
- providing the baffle structure with a wall at least partially defining a cavity,
- 20 the cavity communicating with the chamber and the outlet port, and upper edge of the wall defining a mouth;
- operating the outlet control device for allowing water to flow from the outlet port;
- flowing water from the chamber over the upper edge and through the mouth to
- 25 the cavity;
- flowing water from the cavity to the outlet port.
44. The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:
- providing an inlet control device communicating with the inlet line for controlling introduction of water into the reservoir;
- 30 operating the inlet control device in response to operation of the outlet control device and introducing water into the reservoir upon dispensing water from the reservoir.

45. The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:

- coupling the outlet line to a beverage preparation apparatus;
 - providing a tube extending from the outlet port;
 - providing a receiver for receiving heated water from the tube and for receiving a beverage substance for mixing with the heated water for producing a beverage
- 5 therefrom;
- controllably dispensing heated water from the reservoir;
 - delivering heated water through the tube to the receiver;
 - mixing the controllably dispensed heated water with the beverage substance for producing a beverage.